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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 14 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 135, No. 14

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
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See page 3.

On the job

Public safety, first responders take extra health precautions

Don Howard
Staff Writer

Area public safety departments are taking extra precautions to make sure police officers and firefighters are safe when responding to 911 calls during the coronavirus pandemic.

Officials said that with the onset of the pandemic their departments are fastidiously following the established guidelines from both the federal and state government with respect to limiting exposure to firefighters, and patients alike.

IN PLYMOUTH , NORTHVILLE AND CANTON

Both Plymouth and Northville Township police chiefs have redeployed detectives to road patrol duty to accommodate the need for a greater public presence and to make staff available to secure un-occupied and vacant business establishments.

On a national level, public safety call centers report they are experiencing unexpected 911 emergencies during the virus pandemic; keeping people who answer the phone healthy. Dispatchers, also known as Public Service Aids (PSAs) are highly trained in handling emergencies and typically can't work from home.

Plymouth Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington said his department is prepared in the event of a shortage of PSAs due to sickness with an in-place co-op system which can automatically transfer calls to a Northville Township or Canton Township dispatcher if needed. Other surrounding communities have the similar protections built-in, Tiderington said.

Canton Public Safety officers welcomed the donation of face shields from Ford Motor Co. last week as well as pocket-size hand sanitizers from the Kennedy Nemier Insurance Agency.

Tiderington reported that township police, fire and dispatch are at or near full staffing levels which allows the department to provide patients with the needed critical life and safety support during the crisis. As of last week, Tiderington reported that one officer was symptomatic and later tested negative.

Plymouth Township Fire Chief Dan Phillips said while police department PSAs now question callers and alert his department of the need to wear PPE (protective equipment) at the scene, his firefighters take precautions when approaching a likely exposed individual.

"We're taking extra steps to screen callers to find out if anyone in the house is having flu-like symptoms, or a cough, a fever or shortness of breath before we arrive on scene," said Phillips. "Then we don our PPE gear and approach with great caution."

Department chiefs insist on temperature checks every 4 to 8 hours for firefighters and police officers alike to quickly identify anyone who might be sick.

Canton Fire Department Deputy Chief Chris Stoecklein said in the past month there's been an increase in emergency calls not just directly due to the COVID-19 virus but calls for slip and fall, kitchen fires and domestic problems. Stoecklein said strict practice dictates the use of 6 to 10 foot distancing and wearing full PPE equipment where COVID-19 patients are involved.

"That includes, gowns, face mask, face shields, and boots," he added.

Stoecklein reported that currently they have a good stock of PPE supplies, but complained that a N95 facemask that formerly cost $1 is now $4.95. Phillips said they also have an ample 3-40 day PPE supply, but there are supply-chain issues with gloves, and masks.

Northville Township Fire Chief Brent Siegel said increased department protocols to protect patients and limit exposure to firefighters are like those in place in the other area departments, including decontamination of ambulance units, carts and equipment.

"We're doing the call screening with our dispatchers and using personal protective equipment before we arrive, but calls are taking longer." Siegel said they "were doing tons of different things now to protect our personnel.

"Calls are now taking longer and we're spending more time at the hospitals, as they are much busier."

Siegel said according to the protocols when they return from transporting a virus patient the firefighters in addition to the cleaning and decontamination process, firefighters must shower.

"We are handling between one and three COVID-19 patients a day, Siegel said.

In the City of Northville, reports and calls to the police and

See **Responders,** page 6

Virus threatens traditional community festivals

> *If it is safe to have crowds, we will re-petition the city for permits and have the festival. We will abide by what the city tells us.*

Several community events in the area are in jeopardy due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and several face cancellation.

In Belleville, Joan Bodnar, the executive director of the National Strawberry Festival, said the city has withdrawn all approvals and permit requests for permits for the 44th annual event scheduled for June 19, 20 and 2.

"Our main concern is public safety. We are going to listen to what the president says and what the governor advises and hope that we can re-present our requests to the city," Bodnar said. "It is just really up in the air right now. There are just too many questions," she said. She said that the committee is going to "wait and see" what the conditions are at the end of the month.

"The city has the ultimate decision. As I said, our main concern is public safety. If it is safe to have crowds, we will re-petition the city for permits and have the festival. We will abide by what the city tells us," she said.

This would be the 44th year for the National Strawberry Festival in Belleville, a tradition which draws thousands of visitors to the community. The event celebrates all things strawberry and includes a parade down Main Street with a grand marshal, the selection of a Strawberry Queen, carnival rides and Cinnamon's Car Show. Volunteers from local churches have prepared home made pies and other strawberry treats sold during the three-day event for more than four decades.

Interim Belleville City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, who has been given emergency management powers by the members of the city council, announced the denial of all city permits for the Strawberry Festival in a published statement last week.

"Due to the on-going COVID-19 crisis the City of Belleville must do everything in its power to ensure the health and safety of our residents, staff and businesses. It is for that reason and through the powers of emergency management bestowed upon me through City Council, I am cancelling the City's participation and withdrawing all approvals of associated activities of the National Strawberry Festival this year," her statement read.

Bodnar, however, said she is still hopeful.

"I've talked with my board and they are in agreement. We will wait and see, and if it is safe, we will re-petition for permits."

Other community events and celebrations throughout the area have also been canceled or are in doubt due to the severe health threat posed by the COVID 19 virus.

In Canton Township, no final decision has been

See **Festivals,** page 6

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Inkster - Romulus

Workers protest at Romulus Amazon facility

About 20 workers at the Amazon facility in Romulus demonstrated in front of the facility April 1 holding signs protesting the prioritizing of profit over their health and stating they were afraid to go to work at the facility.

The demonstration was prompted, the protesters said, by the failure of Romulus Amazon management to warn them that a worker had tested positive for COVID 19. Since that first case, employees claim, three more people at the order-fulfillment center have tested positive for the coronavirus.

The Romulus warehouse employs 4,000 workers in the facility and workers claim it is impossible to practice the social distancing and Stay Home Stay Safe executive order of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. The employees demonstrating claimed that there is no way, under current working conditions, to prevent the spread of the virus and that they, and others, are in jeopardy of becoming infected. The workers were demanding a two-week shutdown of the warehouse, in compliance with the governor's order, which they claim could be accomplished if Amazon would restrict sales to only essential items such as foodstuffs, disinfectants, medical staples and hygiene products.

Amazon had pledged last month to hire an additional 100,000 workers nationally at an increased pay rate and to prioritize the shipment of essential items and limit the shipment of those deemed non-essential.

Romulus Amazon management issued a prepared statement regarding the protest which claimed "fewer than 15 people participated" in the demonstration and said that Amazon employees are "heroes fighting for their communities and helping people get critical items they need in a crisis."

Special delivery

During March, Romulus Community Schools hosted the Book Mobile for the second time, visiting students around Romulus and Inkster. The Book Mobile and a team of reading specialists delivered more than 200 books to students and adults to promote reading at home. The books were for readers of all ages, including adults. "Our staff got a huge, positive response about the delivery of books and snacks. Reading is a fundamental part of learning; the more they read, the better learner they will become," said Karensa Smith, who has served as district director of grants and curriculum for more than four years. "We wanted to encourage students to always have a physical book in their hands. The teamwork in our school district made this voyage of the Book Mobile possible," she added. Those who may have missed the Book Mobile, can catch it again on July 23. By Roderick Peterson Jr.

City officials suspend all home water service shut-offs

Inkster officials have suspended all water shut-offs in the city during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, late fees for charges that were due by the end of March have been waived in recognition of the interruption of hours at Inkster City Hall.

Officials said that the city "remains committed to maintaining our vital water and sewer infrastructure."

Inkster City Hall has been and is scheduled to remain closed as directed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Customers can continue to pay water bills in a timely manner utilizing one of several methods available.

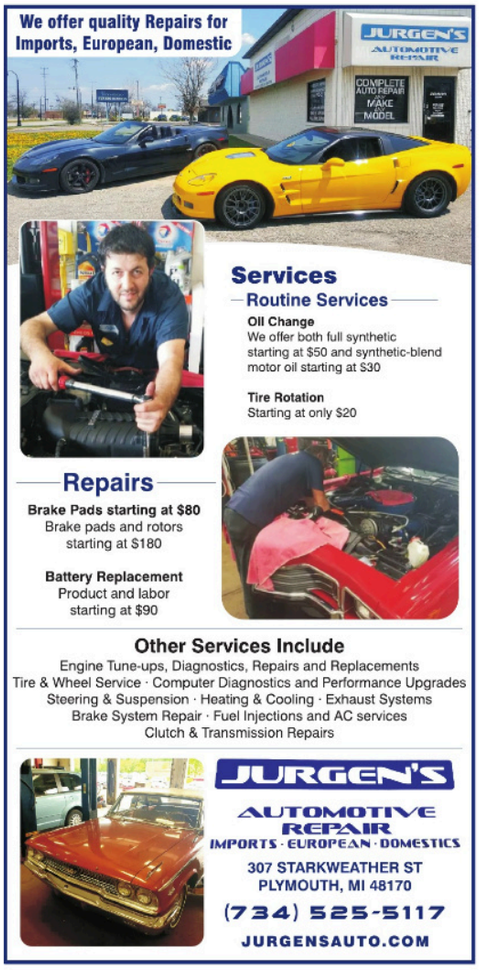
Water fees can be paid online at the city website, www.cityofinkster.com. There will be a 3-percent credit card processing fee will be charged for online payments.

Residents can also pay by check or money order at the drop box located at Inkster City Hall, 26215 Trowbridge. The drop box is located at the right side of the front doors at city hall. No cash will be accepted in the drop box, officials warned.

Payments can also be made by mail addressed to City of Inkster Treasurer's Office, 26215 Trowbridge, Inkster, MI 48141

The regular water billing process will continue during the current crisis, officials noted.

In addition, compost pick up began in the city this week. Compost collection will continue every week on the same day as scheduled trash pick-up. Compost pick up will continue through Dec. 18.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WAYNE - WESTLAND

Manslaughter suspect enters plea of 'no contest'

Anthony Dominic Kesteloot still awaits sentencing on manslaughter charges stemming from the death of Olivia Rossi.

Both Kesteloot, 26, and Rossi, 23, were Westland residents. Kesteloot was originally charged with homicide, obstructing justice, tampering with evidence, failing to report the discovery of a dead body, disinterring and mutilating a dead body and removing a dead body without medical examination. Those charges were dropped by prosecutors in exchange for his no contest plea in court last month to the manslaughter charge which carries up to a 15-year prison sentence.

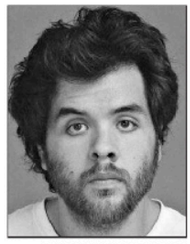
> *Reports indicated that Kesteloot originally denied any knowledge of Rossi's fate.*

While a sentencing date in Third Circuit Court was set for March 30, that has apparently been delayed by the court in light of the current coronavirus pandemic. Kesteloot and Rossi had been acquainted since high school, according to family members, and had occasionally dated. Kestleroot picked Rossi up from her home the evening of Aug. 18 and the pair reportedly went to his apartment. She texted her twin sister that night that she and Kesteloot were at a Westland elementary school and that he was acting in an odd manner. Her texts to her sister stopped later that night.

She did not return home and her family subsequently reported her disappearance to Westland police.

Reports indicated that Kesteloot originally denied any knowledge of Rossi's fate but later led police to her body in Hines Park partially submerged in the water. He reportedly told police that she had died in his apartment.

Kesteloot was originally charged in January and waived the preliminary examination on the charges set for 18th District Court in Westland.



Anthony Dominic Kesteloot

Congratulations

Wayne Police Ofc, Michael Bolton was selected as the 2019 Police Officer of the Year. Bolton was nominated for the honor by his peers and selected by the Awards Committee. Bolton was nominated and selected based on his work ethic, which also makes him a role model for younger officers, according to a statement from the department. Bolton made several notable arrests last year, including a home invasion suspect and the suspect in a very serious assault, officials said. Bolton will be presented with the award at a meeting of the Wayne City Council members when face-to-face meetings resume. The awards committee also chose several other award recipients in the department which will be announced at a later date.

Local attorney seeking judicial seat

Former Wayne City Attorney Breeda O'Leary will seek the non-partisan judicial seat at the 29th District Court created by Judge Laura Mack's retirement.

Voters will decide on a new judge at the court during the Nov. 3 presidential election.

O'Leary is a long-time Wayne resident and practicing attorney at Fausone Bohn, L.L.P. She has extensive trial experience, having served as a prosecutor for the 29th District Court in Wayne, and currently serving as a prosecutor for the 18th District Court in the City of Westland.

She has prosecuted thousands of misdemeanor cases and conducted numerous jury trials, bench trials, and formal hearings throughout her career, according to background information provided. In her private practice, O'Leary amassed significant civil litigation and landlord-tenant experience, she said.

"Having practiced in the district courts for my entire legal career, I am confident that I can continue serving the citizens of Wayne with the utmost integrity, fairness, compassion, and the same high level of services that they have come to expect" said O'Leary.

> *Wayne is, and always has been, my home town.*

"If elected, I will continue the diversion and treatment programs implemented by Judge Mack, including the very important Western Wayne County Regional Behavioral Treatment Court, which is designed to assist adult individuals with mental illness who have encountered the criminal justice system."

O'Leary said that she has the support of Mack for the seat.

O'Leary is the fifth generation of her family raised in Wayne. Her great-grandparents moved to the city in the 1930s, when the city was only a village. Her family has owned and operated several businesses during those seven decades including Foster's Market, and Riggs Wholesale Grocer. O'Leary attended St. Mary School and obtained her first job at Northside Hardware.

O'Leary moved from Wayne to attend college and returned to marry her husband at Goudy Park. Her daughter currently attends the Wayne-Westland schools.

O'Leary has been active in the community, having served the Wayne Senior Center with Free Legal Aid for Seniors for nearly seven years. She is currently vice-president of Wayne Main Street, a member of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, an advisory board member for Families Against Narcotics (FAN) Northwest Wayne Chapter, and a member of the Wayne 100 Club.

"Wayne is, and always has been, my home town. There would be no higher honor for me than to humbly serve my community and its citizens as their next district court judge," O'Leary said.

It's never been more important for everyone living in Michigan to be counted in the U.S. census.

The census impacts everyone from seniors to students, kids and parents and our local businesses and neighborhoods. Participating in the census is a civic duty as important as voting to our democracy.

To help get the word out, the state of Michigan has launched the Be Counted campaign to communicate the importance of completing the census, dispel myths and help ensure every Michigander is counted in the 2020 Census.

The census form is available in several different languages in addition to English, including Spanish. You are not required to be a citizen in order to complete the 2020 Census, and there are no citizenship questions on the census form.

The census takes place every 10 years with the goal of counting everyone living in the United States. Invitations to complete the 2020 Census will begin arriving in mailboxes across Southeast Michigan in March.

For the first time, the census can be filled out online, as well as by phone or mail, making it more convenient than ever.

Also, your information is 100% confidential and by law cannot be shared with anyone. Census data is only used to produce demographic statistics and will not be used in a way that will identify you or your household.

Completing the 2020 Census is critical to the future of our state. There is $3,000 in federal funding at stake for every person who completes the census.

The 2020 Census will ask questions about the number of people living in your household on April 1, 2020, and ask their names, ages, genders, race, dates of birth, relationship status, phone numbers and whether your home is owned or rented.

Participation in the census determines funding for local communities and essential services, including public safety, schools, housing, health care, and senior programs. Michigan receives nearly $30 billion per year in federal funding for these and many other critical programs. Census numbers also help determine how many congressional seats Michigan will have.

Be sure to fill out your census form and Be Counted in 2020.

To learn more, visit www.michigan.gov/census2020/.

Kerry Ebersole Singh is Michigan's 2020 Census executive director.

Advertisement

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Canton - Plymouth

Man accused of assault on wife with electric saw

Oswald John Tallent

A 46-year-old Canton Township man is accused of attacking his wife with a power saw and dragging his 8-year-old daughter by the hair after slamming her to the pavement.

Oswald John Tallent is facing multiple felony charges following his arrest and arraignment in 35th District Court last Wednesday, April 1. He is charged with assault with intent to commit murder; a felony punishable by up to life imprisonment; torture; a felony punishable by life or any term of years; assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder or by strangulation, a 10-year felony; child abuse, 3rd degree, a 2-year felony and as a habitual offender third offense.

> *The defendant fled the scene on foot by was apprehended almost immediately by Canton officers and arrested.*

Multiple neighbors in the 7300 block of Stonebrook Drive called Canton police at about 1:14 p.m. March 30 and reported a man assaulting his wife in the driveway of their home.

When officers arrived at the residence, they discovered Tallent's 44-year-old wife in the driveway of the residence with what appeared to be serious lacerations to her face and body, apparently caused by a power saw. Officers also discovered the couple's 8-year-old daughter with a bump on her head and scrapes on her body. The couple has two other children, 6 and 4.

Canton EMTs arrived at the location and transported the victims to a local hospital for treatment. The defendant fled the scene on foot by was apprehended almost immediately by Canton officers and arrested.

Tallent was arraigned on the multiple charges, which stem from assaults on two of his children along with the attack on his wife, before Judge Ronald Lowe at the 35th District Court in Plymouth. Lowe set Tallent's bond at $500,000, no 10 percent, and if released from police custody he must wear an electronic tether.

A probable cause conference on the charges is set for April 13 and a preliminary examination is scheduled for April 17.

Manufacturing facility to close, lay off 66 workers

Sixty-six workers at a Canton Township manufacturer will not have jobs to return to when the coronavirus isolation restrictions are lifted.

Worthington Specialty Processing, a steel fabrication plant at 5260 South Haggerty Road, will close both the 195,000 square-foot processing center and the 250,000 square-foot distribution facility at the end of May, according to a company notice sent to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity March 17. The notification is required by law when job losses are planned, according to provisions of the Worker Retraining and Adjustment Notification (WARN) Act.

The WARN Act requires employers to provide notice to employees and local government at least 60 days in advance of business closings and mass layoffs.

The company website included a notification of the closure noting that some operations would be moved to facilities in Taylor and Jackson. While the Canton facility currently employs 91 people, only 25 of those employees will be transferred to one of the two other Worthington plants.

"Closing the Canton facility and consolidating operations is a move to bolster the ongoing competitiveness of WSP," according to the statement on the company website attributed to Jeff Klingler, president of Worthington Steel Processing business. "Employees are encouraged to apply for open positions at Worthington facilities in the area. We will work with all employees to provide transitional services," the statement concluded.

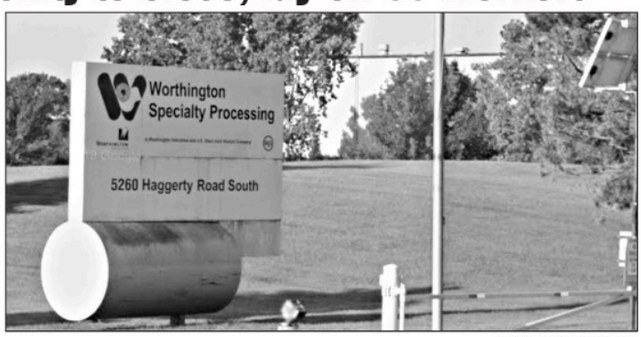

Photo: Google Maps © 2020 Google

The 30-acres of property on Haggerty Road near Van Born Road will also be for sale, according to the state notification.

Plymouth Library continues to offer multiple on-line programs

The library doors might be closed...but plymouthlibrary.org is open.

Following Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's orders, the physical building of the Plymouth District Library is closed at this time.

That isn't stopping hundreds of folks from coming to the library every day for books, movies, music and more all downloadable with a library card. Library policies have been modified to make increased online content available for cardholders.

Those who live or work in the City of Plymouth are eligible for a library card. Go to plymouthlibrary.org and click on How Do I Get a Library Card? The library is processing card applications every day and a staff member usually responds with library card and PIN number within 24 hours, according to a prepared statement from the library.

For any library users who had their borrowing privileges suspended - these suspensions have been lifted for the duration of the library closure.

> *Library staff members are monitoring email and phone messages and answering inquiries.*

There are thousands of online offerings available through the library on Overdrive, Hoopla, Kanopy and Flipster. Ebooks and audiobooks, magazines, movies, television shows, graphic novels, music - all available for all age groups. Under normal circumstances, there are some limits set on some of the online products. During the closure, however, these limits have all been expanded.

For reliable book suggestions, Booklist, the book review magazine of the American Library Association has been helping librarians and library users for more than a century. Booklist has just announced that access to the service is free, an opportunity for readers to read and search from the vast Booklist database of reviews, interviews and reading lists. Go to booklistreader.com for information.

Library staff members are monitoring email and phone messages and answering inquiries every morning, afternoon and evening. Direct inquiries to: (734) 453-0750, ext 200 or info@plymouthlibrary.org.

Plymouth man is named to state health and safety board

Governor Gretchen Whitmer named several new members of the Michigan Board of Health and Safety Compliance and Appeals last week.

Among the appointees to the board was Frank K. Fischer, of Plymouth, who currently serves as the executive director of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI). He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Western Michigan University. Fischer was appointed to represent a national health care system whose work in the state focuses on providing comprehensive behavioral health services to children, adolescents, and adults.

His term began April 3 and will expire April 2, 2024.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE

Advertisement for Park Facilities Roof Replacement Project

Sealed Bids will be received by the Clerks Department via postal delivery by USPS or electronically submitted to Katie Anderson at kanderson@twp.northville.mi.us by 2:00 P.M. Monday, May 5th, 2020.

The Township hereby solicits bids from qualified contractors for the complete removal, disposal of, and replacement of multiple shingle roofs located at Marv Gans Community Park, 15801 Beck Rd., Northville, MI 48116 and at Millennium Park located at 45745 Six Mile Rd., Northville, MI 48168. Information on the project is available on the Northville Township website at www.twp.northville.mi.us/projects along with all bid documents and can also be obtained by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department at 248-508-5314.

Additional information may be obtained from the Parks & Facilities Supervisor, Nathan Reilly at nreilly@twp.northville.mi.us. Questions regarding the project shall be brought to the attention of the Nathan Reilly, Parks and Recreation Department via email to nreilly@twp.northville.mi.us. Questions will not be accepted after 3:30 P.M. Monday, April 27th, 2020.

Marjorie Banner, Township Clerk

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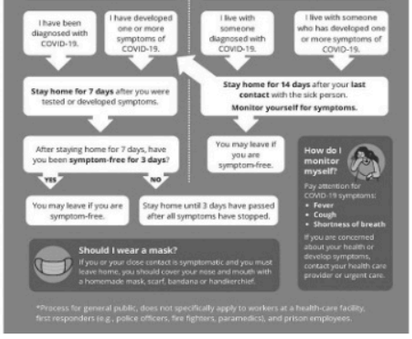
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MICHIGAN.GOV/CORONAVIRUS
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I live with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
I live with someone who has developed one or more symptoms of COVID-19.
Stay home for 7 days after you were tested or developed symptoms.
Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with the sick person.
Monitor yourself for symptoms.
After staying home for 7 days, have you been symptom-free for 3 days?
YES
NO
You may leave if you are symptom-free.
Stay home until 3 days have passed after all symptoms have stopped.
You may leave if you are symptom-free.
How do I monitor myself?
Pay attention for COVID-19 symptoms:
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• Shortness of breath
If you are concerned about your health or develop symptoms, contact your health care provider or urgent care.
Should I wear a mask?
If you or your close contact is symptomatic and you must leave home, you should cover your nose and mouth with a homemade mask, scarf, bandana or handkerchief.
*Process for general public, does not specifically apply to workers at a health-care facility, first responders (e.g., police officers, fire fighters, paramedics), and prison employees.

Northville - Sumpter

Sumpter trustees reject re-assessment proposal

Property owners in Sumpter Township will not see a reassessment of values this year following a decision of the members of the board of trustees Feb. 25.

Members of the board opted not to approve the proposal of WCA, a professional assessment company, to revalue property on the township tax rolls, something that has not been done for about 30 years. WCA had proposed a $114,520 contract to perform the reassessment of residential property during a four to five year period.

During discussion of the proposal at a study session immediately preceeding the regular board meeting Feb. 25, Supervisor John Morgan said that he felt the proposal and the reassessment made "good sense" as there had been so many changes in property since it had been reassessed.

"If we don't do this, I feel we are being negligent," he said.

Trustee Don LaPorte was not in favor of the contract and suggested that assessments should be performed by Wayne County as the township only sees a small part of the revenue generated from property taxes.

"We could look at this as spending $114,000 of taxpayers' money to make sure the taxpayers will be paying more," he said.

> "We could look at this as spending $114,000 of taxpayers' money to make sure the taxpayers will be paying more.

He also suggested that the township would not see enough in increased tax revenue to justify the $114,000 expense.

"Would we see enough coming back to cover $114,000?" he asked.

Trustee Matt Oddy that the township could be back in the same position in a few years without a mechanism in place to ensure that the assessments were maintained and updated.

Clerk Esther Hurst said that in her time in the township she did not recall such a reassessment of property and that while the township had purchased software to maintain property assessment records, she did not recall any updating of the data after the software program was purchased.

"Who knows what is out there we are not capturing," she said. "We need to move into the 21st century."

Trustee Tim Rush questioned the ability of WCA to even begin such a reassessment program in light of the current coronaviris situation.

"Weren't they supposed to start in April or May," he asked.

Morgan and Hurst were the only two members of the board in favor of the expenditure and the proposal to approve the contract was defeated by a lack of support for a second on the motion to approve.

Northville schools prepare to offer off-site learning

Northville Public Schools officials have been working on a plan to shift from the current Home Learning Support framework to a Distance Learning Instruction model in response to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's order to close schools for the remainder of the school year.

Members of the district board of education voted unanimously in favor of the new distance learning for students, according to a prepared announcement.

Officials said that district educators are in the process of developing a plan which they hope to announce April 13. District officials said they are taking into account the stakeholder feedback received during the past few weeks, and the input of the instructional staff.

Currently, all Northville school buildings remain closed to the community, staff and students with the exception of essential staff members performing operational tasks. High school seniors who were on track to graduate prior to school closures will graduate, those not on track will have remedial learning opportunities and kindergarten through 11th grade students who are on track for promotion will be promoted. Students will not be academically penalized due to the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, district officials said.

> "Currently, all Northville school buildings remain closed to the community.

State mandated student testing including the M-STEP and PSAT are temporarily suspended for the 2019-2020 school year. The "Read by 3rd Grade" requirement has also been temporarily suspended.

School employees within the K-12 programs and services for which school districts receive state aid will continue to be paid. Staff members should work remotely where possible and food distribution services will continue to be provided for students.

A more detailed statement regarding the distance learning instruction plan is expected to be sent to parents tomorrow, April 10.

Technology devices are available for students who do not have access and need to borrow this technology from the district. Complete the Technology Device Checkout Form on the district website to request use of a device. The district technology department will follow up via email to schedule a pick up time and location, when it is available. Please see the district website for more information along with options for free internet access.

Northville Township extends water bill payment dates

While Northville Township Hall is closed to the public and employees are working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis, officials have approved an extension for payment of April water and sewer bills.

Northville Township water and sewer customers should receive their next water and sewer bill on or around today, April 9. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order, Northville Township is extending the due date for the April bills from Monday, May 4 to Friday, June 5, according to Marjorie Banner, township clerk in Northville.

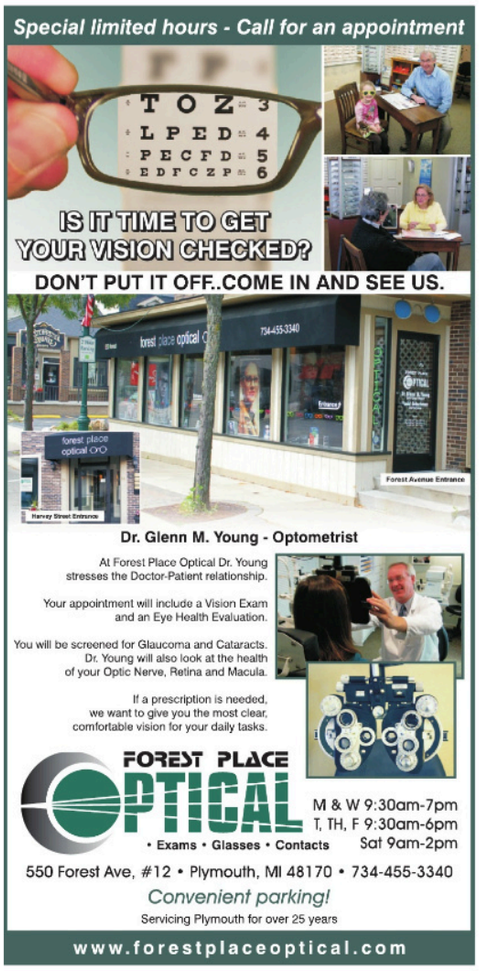
Banner said there are payment options available to residents while officers remain closed. Payments can be mailed Northville Township Water, P.O. Box 674268 Detroit, Mi 48267-4268

Payments mailed to this address are processed by Comerica Bank on the day received. Payments can also be made online by following https://bsaonline.com/OnlinePayment/OnlinePaymentSearch?PaymentApplicationType=10&uid=292.

The best search option is by address, Banner said. Enter only the house address number and then select the entire address from the search results.

Payments can be made with a credit card or by electronic bank transfer from your bank account. Convenience fees apply, Banner cautioned.

She said more information is available at communityrelations@twp.northville.mi.us if residents have trouble paying the bill online.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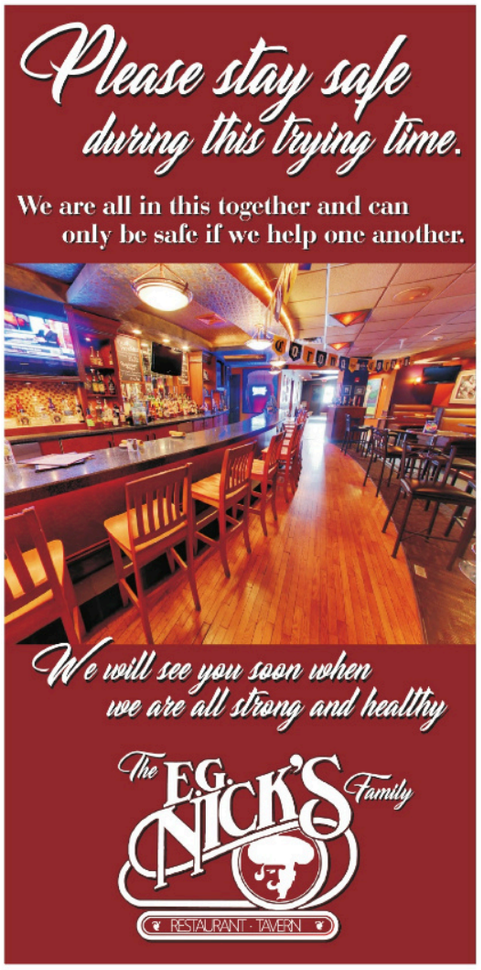
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We are all in this together and can only be safe if we help one another.
We will see you soon when we are all strong and healthy
The EG. NICK'S Family
RESTAURANT · TAVERN

Responder

FROM PAGE 1

fire departments have dropped in recent weeks due to the "stay home" order (2020-21) issued by the governor, but both departments are fully prepared for a spike in emergency runs and calls for assistance due to an anticipated rise in COVID-19 cases, public safety officials said.

"Things are changing daily," said Police Chief Allan Maciag.

Callers to 911 can expect to be asked screening questions for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. They are being asked about potential symptoms and any exposure to people who have the infectious disease that presents with a fever and respiratory problems such as shortness of breath and a cough, often with aches and pains. For non-emergency calls, Dispatch (248-349-1234) will take the person's name and phone number and have an officer call back. This is a new operating procedure that took effect after the police department office closed to the public as part of the governor's order to stay at home.

Police continue to make their rounds of city streets, neighborhoods and businesses, Maciag said. Officers are still responding to the scene of an accident or of a crime to investigate and write reports, but now they maintain a physical distance of 6 feet whenever possible. Maciag said people who need to drop off gun permits should do so by mail or use the drop box at the lower level of the building.

To ensure safety among the police force, officers take their temperature before and after their shift, wash their hands frequently, and work in offices and cars that have been cleaned and disinfected regularly. They have a good supply of personal protection equipment (PPE) ready and available for use, Maciag said.

Of the on-call firefighters, 95 percent are state licensed as emergency medical responders and follow the same procedures as police when reporting to the station for a call, said Fire Chief Steve Ott. They work together with personnel from Community EMS (CEMS) to stabilize and transport patients who need care, he said.

Patients exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be assessed by first responders wearing personal protective gear, such as mask, gowns and face shields, which protects them while treating or transporting the patient.

During runs, physical distancing of 6 feet is now standard operating procedure apart from hands-on patient care or transport.

"We're trying to limit the number of first responders who are exposed to COVID-19, while still providing prompt medical response to anyone who needs it," noted Ott.

Local public safety departments received a large donation of disposable face shields from Ford Motor Co. recently which were proudly made by members of United Auto Workers. Ford workers celebrated the completion and shipping of 1 million masks last week, vital to the safety of health workers.

IN THE CITY OF ROMULUS

The Romulus Police Department has also made some slight changes to protect officers and comply with the governor's order.

"Please rest assured that the Romulus Police Department will continue to be out protecting our neighborhoods and businesses. We have made some slight changes to minimize potential exposures to you and our officers," noted the police Facebook post.

"You can now file police reports on-line, through the Police Public Safety link at romulusgov.com. You can also call (734) 941-8400 to file a police report over the phone. As with any emergency; call 911 and we will respond as always.

"Should you need anything from our Records Bureau; give us a call or email. Please look out after each other, wave to us with all five fingers, maintain your social distance and stay safe," the post continued.

IN SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

Sumpter Township, Director of Public Safety and Police Chief Eric Luke said that emergency services will respond as expected.

"Our Public Safety Department is prepared for emergency operations and has put procedures in place to help protect the health of our police officers, firefighters, and community members," Luke said at a recent meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees meeting.

"This means we've tweaked our response to lower priority, non-emergency calls for service, both police and fire/rescue, to minimize person-to-person contact. We will, without question, respond in our usual manner to all emergency calls though. Depending on the specific importance, information from the public safety department will be shared through the police department's Nixle account in addition to the Facebook pages of the police and fire departments," he added.

"I want to remind everyone to dial 911 for emergencies only. For all other police, fire or medical issues call our dispatch at (734) 461-6898," he advised.

"I know this trying time is full of many stressors. I assure you the response of Sumpter Township Public Safety when you need us should not be one of them," he concluded.

IN THE CITY OF WAYNE

Police and emergency services are operating as usual, according to the police Facebook page although some reports can now be filed online. Information is available on the department Facebook page.

IN THE CITY OF WESTLAND

Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik also took to the department Facebook page to assure residents of the continuing police efforts in the community during the pandemic.

"At no time during this crisis will we risk the safety of our community. We have not, and will not reduce or eliminate police officer patrols. If anything, we will increase police patrols if necessary," Jedrusik said.

"The current strategy of the Westland Police Department is to reduce direct police/citizen contacts. We are achieving this goal by implementing an online CLEMIS police reporting system, by reducing face-to-face police/citizen contacts and by temporarily suspending non-essential services.

"The officers of the Westland Police Department are also practicing social distancing amongst ourselves in order to reduce the risk of any potential virus spread," he said. "Be confident knowing that the men and woman of the Westland Police Department have been, and will continue to work through this crisis in order to ensure that our community is safe and protected."

Chief praises safety staff

Tom Tiderington, who has served as Plymouth Township police chief for 19 years and as a law enforcement professional for more than 40 years, issued a statement praising his staff.

He said that he has "seen many challenges, both man-made and natural, that have made me a better person and have shown me the true character and resolve of our police officers, fire fighters and dispatch staff. As we continue to battle this invisible enemy, our Public Safety Officers continue to risk their lives each and every day to bravely serve our community. I am extremely proud of all of them," he said.

Tiderington also expressed his appreciation for the support of the township board of trustees.

"We could not do our jobs effectively without the strong support of our township leaders. I am thankful that the board of trustees made full-staffing of our police and fire departments a top priority," he said. "Our first responders could not be operating at this high degree of professionalism without the township board's relentless efforts these past four years to rebuild and strengthen our police, fire and dispatch services. Our leadership team of Supervisor (Kurt) Heise, Clerk (Jerry) Vorva and Treasurer (Mark) Clinton respect our dedicated and professional staff of first responders, and have been strong partners as we work together through this crisis," Tiderington said.

"Plymouth Township residents can rest assured that our Police Officers, Fire Fighters, Dispatchers and Civilian Support Staff are there for them every day, and that we have excelled during this time of national crisis.

"It is my honor and privilege to serve with them," he concluded.

Festivals

FROM PAGE 1

made by officials regarding the Canton Liberty Fest, set this year for June 18-20. Organizers said the issue is still under discussion, but if the event takes place, it will most likely be a much smaller celebration than in the past, in light of the current health threat.

In Plymouth, the Art In The Park event, set for July 10-12 will take place as scheduled, according to reports.

Wayne Downtown Days could also be canceled although there is no decision about the event usually set for early August, according to Wayne Main Street, the organizer of the event.

In Westland, the All American Cruise, scheduled for June 20, has been canceled but could be rescheduled, according to organizer Don Nicholson. Cruisin' Hines, an event set for Aug. 23 will proceed as scheduled, he added.

Blues, Brews and BBQ in Westland, a city sponsored event set for Aug. 7-8, will go on as scheduled, according to organizers.

The city will postpone the All American Craft Beer & Wine Festival set for May 30. No alternate date for that event has been chosen.

Wayne County Mud Day organizers are unsure about the event set for July 7 at Nankin Mills in Westland. A final decision about the event that attracts hundreds of youngsters from throughout the are has not been made, according to county officials.

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